

Shanghai Population Forum on Future Directions in Asian Population Research

Dates: 10 – 12 October 2016

Host: Asian Population Research Institute (ADRI), Shanghai University, Shanghai, China

Asian countries account for more than half of the world population. They have been experiencing fundamental socioeconomic, demographic and environmental changes over the past decades, which has led to an increased demand for the demographic research communities to collaboratively address these changes in a comparative manner. Demography as a scientific discipline has recently seen great progress in many Asian countries but the existing institutions tend to have taken a predominantly national focus. There is a clear need for in-depth comparative analysis in Asia using the most advanced demographic methods and the best available data in order to identify commonalities and differences among the different populations.

The Asian Demographic Research Institute (ADRI) at Shanghai University is inspired by these great challenges and the aim to advance the comprehensive analysis of population and sustainable development across Asian countries and regions. In 2016, ADRI assumes its function as the headquarter of the Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis (see www.populationasia.org), and within this role it will organize the first Population Forum on “Future Direction of Asian Population Research” on Oct. 10-12 in Shanghai, China.

The main purpose of the Forum is to gain a better understanding of the current state, progress and gaps in academic research on Asian populations, and discuss its future directions. The forum is organized around 4-5 major themes of demographic research, including formal demographic modeling, Asian demographic transitions, human capital and development, migration and urbanization, and environmental sustainability. Leaders and key players of the main demographic research institutes, including those of the 35 or so institutes involved in the Asian MetaCentre in Asian countries and beyond are invited to attend the forum.

We will review the existing main research areas, methodologies, approaches, models, data, and geographic locations of current Asian population studies drawing from various sources. Based on discussions of the current status of scientific research and major demographic trends in Asia, participants of the forum will work together to define directions of future Asian population researches, identify the most important research areas, select the topics for collaborative studies among institutes across countries/regions, and make recommendation for capacity building program and training workshop under the framework of Asian MetaCentre for Sustainable Development Analysis.

We hope that this will help to enhance communications and collaborations between the institutes and will also result in jointly submitted proposals for funding of comparative analysis across countries and regions.